



Classic Trans Mongolian - Independent

Days	Eastbound	Countries	Distance	Activity level
16	Moscow to Beijing	Russia + Mongolia + China	7,865 km	● ● ○ ○ ○



This brief journey captures the highlights perfectly. You'll visit a collection of the world's most fascinating cities: Moscow, Kazan, Yekaterinburg, Irkutsk, Ulaanbaatar and Beijing – each as diverse as they are iconic. And you'll experience two of the world's most famous railways, before walking along the Great Wall of China.

Itinerary

Day 1: Hello Moscow!

You'll soon see that Moscow is a vibrant and dynamic city. The Christ the Saviour Cathedral, built after the collapse of the Soviet Union, now dominates Moscow's skyline and is sure to take your breath away. Beneath the city lies the palatial metro rail system draped in chandeliers, mosaics and baroque bas-reliefs. Nearby, you'll find the cobblestone streets and discover Red Square surrounded by the State History Museum, Lenin's Mausoleum as well as the iconic swirled cupolas of St. Basils Cathedral, now a museum.

Day 2: Moscow and on to Kazan

Showcasing monumental walls, towers and golden-domed cathedrals, you can pause at the city's impressive Kremlin. Here you marvel at the exquisite collection of royal treasures, Faberge jewels and icons of the lavish Armoury Chamber.

Then further explore this city drenched in fascinating history, before making your way to the station to meet your onward train to Kazan.

Suggested sightseeing - Red Square, St Basils Cathedral, Kremlin and Armoury, Moscow Metro, Arbat Street, State Museum, Lenin's Mausoleum, Zaryadye Park, Tretyakov Gallery, Novodevichy Convent & Cemetery, Cosmonaut Museum, Bolshoi Ballet

Meals - Breakfast

Day 3: Kazan and to Yekaterinburg

Today you arrive in the picturesque and historic city of Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. It's an impressive city where the domes of Orthodox churches and the minarets of the Islamic mosques vie for attention in the skyline. Today, you have the chance to visit Kazan's UNESCO World Heritage Listed Kremlin. You cannot help but admire the marvelous towers, glistening domes, and ornate minarets encased within the Kremlin that is still today the very heart of the city.

Later in the evening you return to the station to recommence your train journey. You pass through the Ural Mountains before stopping just inside Asia at Yekaterinburg, considered to be the dividing point between Europe and Asia.

Suggested sightseeing - Kremlin, Tatar settlement with old mosques, Peter and Paul Cathedral, Muesum Chak Chaka, Bauman Street, Tatar folk show

Meals - Breakfast

Day 4: Yekaterinburg

Yekaterinburg is a vibrant, modern city with a brutal past. Here you can delve into the history that brought the end to Tsarist Russia, always a fascinating stop en route.

Suggested sightseeing - Red Line Walking Tour, Romanov's Church & Memorial, Obelisk at Asia/Europe border

Day 5: Trans Siberian Railway

After a morning in Yekaterinburg you transfer to the station where you will rejoin the train that will carry you into the heart of Siberia, Irkutsk.

Settle into life on board, enjoying the time to get acquainted with Russian travellers on the train as you cross the Irtysh and Ob rivers and head out over the vast Siberian silver and green taiga.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 6: Trans Siberian Railway

Life on board is a destination in itself! Mingle, learn some new phrases, or practice those you have learned on the locals over the mandatory vodka. When your train pulls into the many stations along the way hop off, stretch your limbs and restock on supplies from the platform kiosks for the next leg of your journey.

Day 7: Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal

Your train pulls into Irkutsk this evening. Beyond the city and following the fast-flowing Angara River upstream lies the great lake of Siberia, Baikal, which contains one fifth of the world's fresh water, and as the world's largest it has dimensions and scale spectacular in every sense.

You spend two nights in the Siberian village of Listvyanka – a popular summer resort for locals. Its small port is often lively with a chance to bargain with the locals, try some delicious smoked fish, the typical dish of the region, and admire the 2000km of shoreline as well as magnificent vistas across the icy waters.

Day 8: Lake Baikal

Today you will enjoy your time in Listvyanka on the shores of the world's deepest freshwater lake, Baikal. Here you have time to explore the village with its traditional houses, Limnological Museum and spectacular landscapes.

Suggested sightseeing - Limnological Museum, Museum of Wooden Architecture, hike along the lake

Meals - Breakfast

Day 9: Irkutsk

Upon your return to Irkutsk you have time to discover the city's wonderful historic sights – 18th century churches, bright painted shutters and log houses decorated with intricate wooden lacework.

Suggested sightseeing - Irkutsk Local History Museum, Decembrist Museum, Green Line Walking Tour

Meals - Breakfast

Day 10: Irkutsk to Ulaanbaatar

Early this morning you climb back aboard our train bound for Mongolia! Settle into life on board with your fellow travelling companions. As the train leaves Irkutsk you will skirt the shores of the magnificent Lake Baikal, before entering the mountains that border Mongolia to your next stop, Ulaanbaatar.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Day 11: Welcome to Mongolia

At daybreak, classic scenes of traditional nomadic life greet you as the train winds impressively across the Mongolian steppe and into the capital.

You then travel out across the grasslands to Terej National Park where you spend the night in a Mongolian ger - a traditional felt and wood frame house used by nomadic herdsman for centuries, set amongst spectacular rock formations and wild rolling hills. Among nomadic families and their grazing livestock you can explore nearby valleys or just relax and enjoy the area.

Suggested sightseeing - Genghis Khan Statue, Turtle Rock and excursion to meet a local Nomadic family, Aryabal Meditation Centre

Meals - Breakfast

Day 12: To Ulaanbaatar

Today you return to Ulaanbaatar for a night in the capital, with the opportunity to listen to unique Mongolian throat singing at an evening cultural performance and a last chance to soak up the charm of this beautiful country.

Suggested sightseeing - National History Museum, Sukhbaatar Square, Ghandan Khiid Monastery, Zaisan Memorial, Bogd Khan Winter Palace, cultural performance

Meals - Breakfast

Day 13: Ulaanbaatar to Beijing

The Beijing Express departs in the morning. You travel over the steppe of Mongolia and further to the south, the Gobi Desert, towards the Chinese frontier at the border town of Erlian where the train's bogies are changed from a wider gauge used by Russia and Mongolia to a narrower Chinese gauge.

Meals - Breakfast

Day 14: Beijing

Arrive Beijing – a city that never sleeps! Immerse yourself in this bustling metropolis. Explore the remarkable Temple of Heaven, wander through Tiananmen Square and the Hutong area to see a vanishing world.

Suggested sightseeing - The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven, The Forbidden City, Hutong Tour, The Summer Palace, night markets, Acrobat performance

Day 15: Beijing

Your epic journey concludes with a chance for an excursion to the remarkable Great Wall Great Wall. Built as a defense against the fierce and capable Mongol equestrians, the Wall stretches 500 km across China's mountainous northern frontier - you could literally walk through history.

Meals - Breakfast

Itinerary (cont.)

Days 16: Beijing

Your adventure has drawn to a close as you depart your hotel this morning.

Meals - Breakfast

Journey Summary

Day 1	Moscow - Journey begins	
Day 2	Moscow and depart to Kazan	Evening departure
Day 3	Arrive Kazan and depart to Yekaterinburg	Early morning arrival and evening departure
Day 4	Arrive Yekaterinburg	Early afternoon arrival
Day 5	Depart to Irkutsk	Early afternoon departure
Day 6	Onboard train	
Day 7	Arrive Irkutsk and to Lake Baikal	Evening arrival
Day 8	Lake Baikal	
Day 9	Return to Irkutsk	
Day 10	Depart to Ulaanbaatar	Early morning departure
Day 11	Arrive Ulaanbaatar and to Terej National Park	Early morning arrival
Day 12	Return to Ulaanbaatar	
Day 13	Depart to Beijing	Early morning departure
Day 14	Arrive Beijing	Afternoon arrival
Day 15	Beijing	
Day 16	Beijing - journey concludes	

What's included



Group size

Completely up to you



Meals

10 breakfasts



Transfers

All arrival transfers (excludes airport).



Accommodation

6 hotel and guesthouse (twin share)
2 nights Siberian Guesthouse (twin share)
1 Mongolian ger (shared)
6 train nights (shared 4-berth)



Sightseeing

Organise your sightseeing locally or with us in advance.



Expertise

Our Travel Advisors can help you create the perfect independent journey. If you choose to travel at a Classic service level, City Ambassadors are included at certain cities to enhance your experience with local knowledge.

Contact Us

Client enquiries and reservations

Australia: 1300 559 860
New Zealand: 0800 770 156
UK: 0208 877 7657
Europe: +44 208 877 7657
Worldwide: +61 3 9672 5386
travel@sundownersoverland.com

Travel agent enquiries and reservations

Australia: 1300 559 860
New Zealand: 0800 770 156
UK: 0208 877 7657
Europe: +44 208 877 7657
Worldwide: +61 3 9672 5386
agentsales@sundownersoverland.com

Client enquiries and reservations

Level 1, 51 Queen Street,
Melbourne, VIC, 3000
Australia
T: +61 3 9672 5300
www.sundownersoverland.com